1	2	3	4
1996-97 (31.10.96 तक)	4.30	0.50	4.80

(ग) और (घ): उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) के उत्तर की दृष्टि में प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Quota of Sugar for Punjab

4513. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar allotment from Government to the State of Punjab for the purpose of PDS together with the details of allotment to that state during the last two years month-wise/ district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the present quota of sugar to Punjab; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUTURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The Central Government allots monthly levy sugar quota to States/UTs including the State of Punjab for the purpose of Public Distribution System. The District-wise distribution is done solely by the States/UTs. The monthly levy sugar quota of the Government of Punjab from January to August, 1995 was 7945 M.T.s. From September to December, 1995, 5% ad-hoc increase was allowed and as such the monthly quota during this period was 8342 M.Ts. Since 1.1.1996, the levy sugar quota of all the States/UTs was revised based on the population as per 1991 census.

The monthly levy quota of the State of Punjab was fixed at 8619 MTs. From the month of December, 1996, an ad-hoc increase of 10% in monthly levy quota of all the States/UTs has been given. Over and above, the States/UTs are also being given festival quota of about 1 lakh tonnes per annum in proportion to their monthly levy quota in the month(s) of their choice. The festival quota was doubled in the calender year 1996.

Designated Depots Declared by FCI

4514. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is required to declare designated depots for delivery of foodgrains to the State agencies under the PDS;

(b) whether the railway freight and forwarding charges are required to be settled based on the declaration of such designated depots;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Food Corporation of India has not declared any designated depots in Gujarat resulting in the claims preferred by Gujarat State Civil Supplies corporation are being suffered on account of non-settlement of the claims by the Food Corporation of India since 1986-87; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The Food Corporation of India has to supply foodgrains to the State Governments from disignated depots. In case FCI is unable to supply foodgrains from designated depots the State Government is entitled to claim reimbursement of Rail Freight and Forwarding Charges (RFFC) if the distance involved is more than 14 Kms.

(b) and (c) The Food Corporation of

India has supplied the list of declared designated depots to the Government of Gujarat in February, 1996. Since the claims of Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation (GSCSC) did not fulfil the conditions of reimbursement, the same were rejected by the Food Corpration of India. However, the GSCSC had been requested on 11.2.1997 to revise their claims. At present, no claim of GSCSC is pending with the Food Corporation of India.

Government's intention to Maintain Optimum stock of Foodgrains

4515. SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are interested in maintaining stock of foodgrains at optimum level;

(b) if so, the mechanism used to determine optimum level of rice and wheat stock in the country;

(c) whether State Governments are consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The building up and maintenance of buffer stocks has been an important plank of the National Food Policy. These stocks are maintained primarily to ensure stability in supplies and prices over the entire year and to provide food security to the country. The Buffer Stocking Policy is reviewed from time to time. The last review was made in 1989 by a Technical Group constituted for the purpose.

The Government in December, 1990, after considering the recommendations made by the Technical Group, fixed the level of minimum stocks to be maintained by the public agencies on different dates of a year as under:—

Prescribed Minimum stock Levels

(In Million Tonnes)

Date	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	3.7	10.8	14.5
1st July	13.1	9.2	22.3
1st October	10.6	6.0	16.6
1st January	7.7	7.7	15.4

(c) and (d) The decision about the level of minimum stocks to be maintained by public agencies was based on the recommendation of the Technical Group and was duly circulated amongst all the State Governments/Union Territory administrations. The National Food Policy, of which buffer stocking of foodgrains is an important element, continues to be implemented with utmost coordination between the Centre and States and their agencies.